Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 01340 041432 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 SCA-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 /036 W

R 032100 Z MAY 73 FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356

CONFIDENTIAL MONTEVIDEO 1340

E. O. 11652: XGDS TAGS: PGOV, NFY, US

SUBJ: REQUEST FROM GOU OFFICIALS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF WEAPONS TO U. S.

- 1. ON APRIL 26, TWO MILITARY OFFICERS FROMTHE JOINT MILITARY STAFF CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON A MATTER WHICH THEY TERMED " VERY SECRET".
- 2. THEY STATED THAT THEY NEEDED INFORMATION ON WHAT STEPS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL USG PERMISSION FOR A GROUP OF FOUR OFFICERS TO CARRY WEAPONS ON A TRIP TO THE U. S. THESE OFFICIALS COULD GIVE US NO SPECIFIC REASON FOR THIS TRIP, DECLARING THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THEIR "MISSION" AND WOULD NOT BE "UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE". THEY STATED THAT THE ARMS INVOLVED WERE 4 SUBMACHINE GUNS, 4 PISTOLS, 2 HAND-GRENADES, AND 2 GAS CANNISTERS.
- 3. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICERS, ONLY FOUR OTHERS PERSONS WERE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS "MISSION". PRESIDENT BORDABERRY MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAVENNA, CHIEF OF THE JOINT MILITARY STAFF GENERAL ALVAREZ, AND GOU AMBASSADOR TO THE U. S. HECTOR LUISI.
- 4. TRANSPORTATION FOR GROUP IS ALLEGEDLY TO BE FURNISHED BY PLUNA (URUGUAYAN STATE- OWNED AIRLINE) UTILIZING A BOEING 737 JET. ROUTING WOULD BE FROM MONTEVIDEO TO ASUNCION, LIMA, PANAMA, MIAMI, AND NEW YORK. GROUP WOULD APPARENTLY RECEIVE ITS INSTRUCTION ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK, FROM AMBASSADOR LUISI.
- 5. WE MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS PRESENTATION, EXCEPT TO NOTE STRICT CONTROLS ON ARMS, BOTH IN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND WITHIN U. S. WE POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES IN REPLYING TO INQUIRY IN ABSENCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 0. USE OF BASES, WHICH HE SAID " SHOULD BE

SO TIMED THAT IT WILL NOT AFFECT OUR SECURITY."

5. FYI: POL COUNSELOR HAD PROVIDED PICHAI WITH TEXTS OF RELEVANT STATEMENTS AND BACKGROUND ON US USE OF BASES DURING CONVERSATION MAY 2. DURING WEEK USIS HAS FURNISHED THAI AND ENGLISH LOCAL PRESS WITH COPIES OF STATEMENTS MADE IN 1962. THESE ALSO BEING GIVEN TO SUPREME COMMAND AND TO SECGEN SEATO. UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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